Third United Nations International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy

A/CONF.28/A/494
SPAIN
February 1964
Original: SPANISH

Confidential until official release during Conference

Abstract

URANIUM IN SPAIN: PRESENT SITUATION AND PROSPECTS

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Spain initiated the prospecting for uranium and Thorium about 1948 and, since that time, a large portion of the surface of the country has been prospected and studied. This work has been accomplished largely by the J.E.N. with some assistance, in some cases, from private groups or companies.

The results obtained to this date have permitted the establishment of known uranium reserves of more than 6,000 metric tons of contained U_3O_8, recoverable at present market prices. These reserves increase considerably at higher levels of recovery costs. In the case of thorium the results to date have not been very satisfactory, having been limited to small quantities.

In this paper is presented a description of the work completed to date and the results obtained in the various regions studied. The methods of prospecting and investigation followed are presented in detail and some economic data related to the area explored and the reserves discovered are given.

Translation provided by courtesy of the submitting Government

Since the exploitation of several mines has been initiated to provide feed material for an ore concentration plant, comparative technical and economic data related to various exploitations and treatment of various ore types are also given.

The future prospects for the mining of uranium in our country are examined in view of the results obtained to date.

Finally, the present uranium reserves in Spain are compared with our needs in future years according to the program described in another paper presented at this Conference.